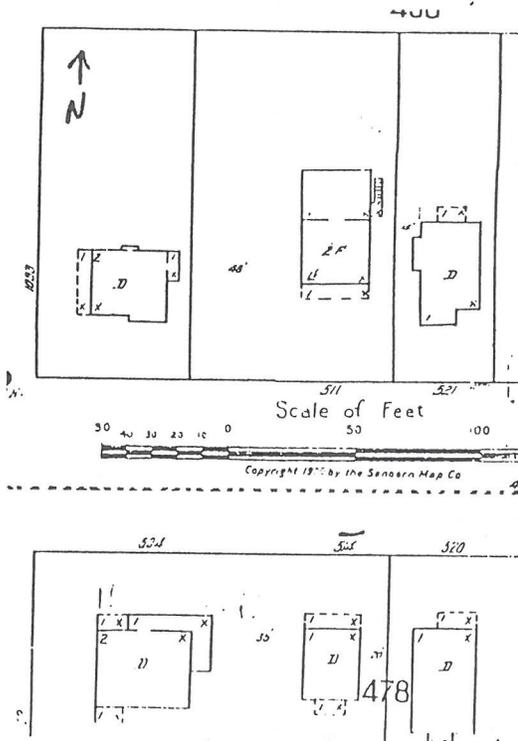


MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 10 Framell 2

Legal Description: University Place Addition, Block 3, Lot Part  
of Lot 6 and All of Lot 7  
Address: 514 Eleventh Street  
Ownership Name: Don Tigny  
Address: c/o A.H. Dorchells, 514 Eleventh Street, Havre, MT 59501  
private: x  
public:

Historic Name: Victor Griggs House  
Common Name: unknown  
Date of Construction: 1914 (water record)  
Architect: unknown  
Builder: unknown  
Original Owner: Victor Griggs  
Original Use: Single-Family Residence  
Present Use: Single-Family Residence

Physical Description:

One-and-one-half story, 3 x 4 bay, stucco-over-wood-frame  
Craftsman residence. Gable roof with ridgeline parallel to  
Eleventh Street with exposed rafters in open eaves (N & S). Plain  
wood brackets support roof overhang along the gables (E & W)

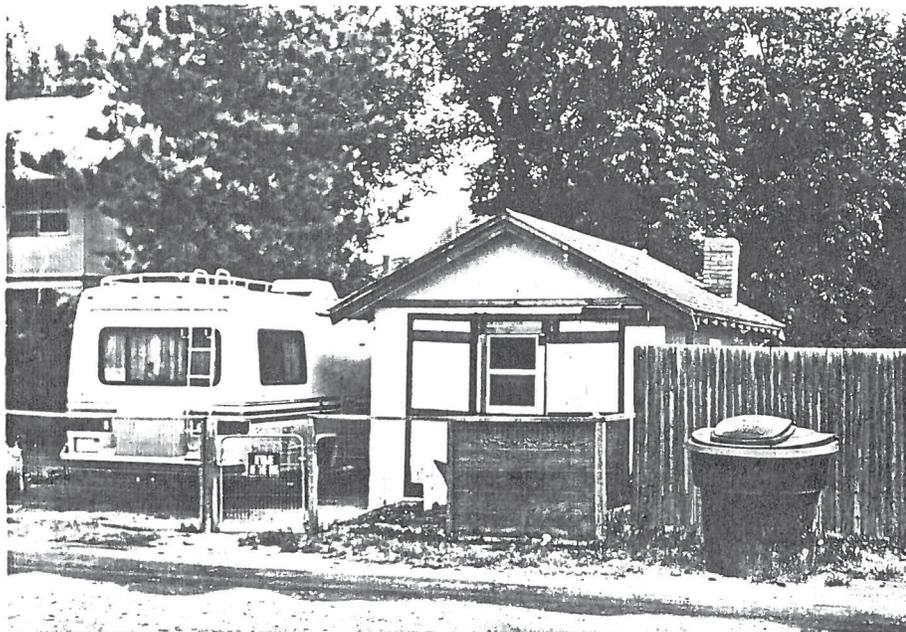
Wood-shingled roof. Roof breaks slightly before it continues and extends over full-width window-enclosed (originally open-air up until at least 1939) porch. Concrete daylight basement.

The right-side primary entry is contained within the porch.

Large shed-roofed dormer centrally-located on main (N) facade. Dormer includes two squat double-hung windows with diamond-patterned upper lights. Plain wood brackets support roof overhang on the east and west sides. Wood-sashed porch windows are all 1/1; some of which are and double-hung and operable. The side (W) facade includes a tripled square wood casement window on the first floor and a 1/1 double-hung wood sash window flanked by diamond-shaped wood casement windows with diamond-shaped lights on the upper story. The side (E) facade has a doubled wood casement window on the first floor, but similar windows on the upper floor.

The rear full-width porch was enclosed in 1984 and a new addition and rear deck added in 1985.

The site is raised from that of the street and requires a concrete retaining wall along the northern edge of the property.



Roll #25 Frames #16-17

Associated structure: Detached single-bay wood-frame garage situated at the rear (S) of the lot. faces south with access via rear service alley. No longer used as a garage but as a storehouse/workspace. Wood-shingled (painted green, now faded) gable roof with exposed rafters in open eaves (W & S). Stucco exterior. Sliding track three-leaf wooden doors. The middle door

has been partially replaced with a window. Secondary entry on side (W) facade. Square wood casement window on side (W) facade. The Sanborn Maps do not cover this far south, but it seems that the garage was built c. 1925, and although modified, still retains a great deal of its original fabric and styling and would contribute to the proposed historic district.

#### Historical Information:

The earliest water record indicates that this house was built in 1914 and was originally owned by Victor Griggs.

Victor Griggs arrived in Havre in 1909 when he was hired as secretary and promoter by the Havre Industrial Association.<sup>1</sup> The Industrial Association soon incorporated as the Havre Chamber of Commerce, with Griggs retained as secretary. In 1911, anticipating the creation of Hill County, Griggs resigned as secretary<sup>2</sup> of the Chamber of Commerce and entered practice as an attorney.<sup>2</sup> In February, 1912, Griggs was elected county attorney of newly formed Hill County.<sup>3</sup> Griggs served as county attorney until 1925.<sup>4</sup> In 1914, Victor and Irma Griggs moved out of their rooms in the Havre Hotel to their ranch two miles south of the city. In May, 1914, Victor let the contract for the construction of a new bungalow in the University Place Addition.<sup>5</sup> By 1917, however, Griggs became involved in Attorney General Sam Ford's attempt to close down the red light districts throughout Montana. When Griggs refused to obey the order, Ford unsuccessfully attempted to remove Griggs from his office. Griggs was exonerated when he claimed that as county attorney he was not supposed to prevent crime, but to enforce already existing laws.<sup>6</sup> This incident was to be the beginning of Griggs' long battle against the progressive movement in Montana.

Once Prohibition had been declared in Montana in 1919, Griggs found himself defending many of the bootleggers and rum runners active in northcentral Montana during that period. His active defense of these men earned him the reputation as a corrupt lawyer firmly in the backpockets of the enemies of morality among many progressives in Montana.<sup>7</sup> This reputation eventually saw Griggs on trial for perjury in the Montana Supreme Court in 1925.<sup>8</sup> Although Griggs was exonerated, he soon left Montana.

Both the 1915 Fenton and 1929 Polk Directories indicate that this house was lived in by Victor R. and Irma L. Griggs. Mr. Griggs was a lawyer with an office in the Masonic Temple in Havre. The Griggs were active in many social and fraternal organizations in Havre. In 1922, Victor was elected president of the Havre Men's Welfare Club, a charitable organization dedicated to supplying food to the needy during the Holidays.<sup>9</sup>

#### Footnote Sources:

1. The Havre Plaindealer, November 6, 1909.

2. Ibid, June 10, 1911.
3. Ibid, March 2, 1912.
4. The Havre Daily Promoter, July 4, 1925.
5. The Havre Plaindealer, May 16, 1914.
6. Ibid, November 3, 1917.
7. Gary A. Wilson. Honky-Tonk Town: Havre's Bootlegging Days. (Helena: Montana Magazine, Inc., 1985), pp. 31-38, p. 83.
8. The Havre Daily Promoter, July 4, 1925.
9. Ibid, October 4, 1922.

Grits, Guts and Gusto: A History of Hill County. Compiled by the Hill County Bicentennial Commission. (Havre: Bear Paw Printers, 1976), pp. 171, 371, 374.

Fenton's Directory, Havre and Hill County, 1915-16.

Polk's Directory, Havre and Hill County, 1915-16, 1929-30.

Sanborn Maps: 1920, 1939.

Research Sources:

Assessor's Records, Hill County, Hill County Courthouse, Havre, Montana.

Water Record no. 557 (1914), Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana.

Integrity:

Good. This house retains its historic character and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It retains its original massing and configuration typical of a bungalow, its historic fabric (narrow-reveal clapboard siding) and several distinctive features and details (centrally-located shed-roofed dormer, exposed rafters in open eaves, plain wood brackets along the gables) indicative of its Craftsman styling. It also exhibits some Medieval influences such as the false half-timbering the gables.

Significance:

This building would qualify for the National Register individually as a good local example of a Craftsman-styled bungalow with some Medieval influences and would be a primary contribution to the proposed historic district. It would qualify for the National Register under criteria C.

Form Prepared By:

Name: Richard Bernstein and Jonathan Axline  
Address: Bear Paw Development Corp., PO Box 1549, Havre, MT 59501  
Date: April 15, 1988  
Revision: June 24 and November 21, 1988

Geographical Information:

Acreage: Less than one acre  
USGS Quad: Havre, Montana  
UTM's: